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### **Legislative Session winding down**

At the time of this writing, the <u>85<sup>th</sup> Iowa General Assembly</u> was still in session. Several pieces of legislation, including the appropriations bill (<u>SF 446</u>) remain under negotiation. Several parts of this bill will impact IDPH and we are watching this process closely.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Governor signed <u>SF 202</u> into law. The highlight of the legislation is Division IV, which provides increased access to <u>Quitline Iowa's</u> tobacco cessation coaching services to young people seeking to stop their tobacco habits. Next month's edition of Quick Reads will include my analysis of the 2013 Iowa Legislative Session and legislation affecting public health.

#### **Director's Walk**

Thank you to everyone who joined me on the annual Director's Walk around the Capitol complex May 8. A special thank you to Iowa State University men's basketball coach Fred Hoiberg, who 'walked the talk' and encouraged participants to strive for better physical fitness. I'm already looking forward to next year's walk.

## **Iowa Youth Survey**

Results are in from the 2012 Iowa Youth Survey. More than 70,000 Iowa 6th, 8th and 11th graders from 255 public and 21 non-public Iowa schools took the survey in the fall of 2012 and answered questions about their perceptions of themselves and their communities. The encouraging news is that when compared with the previous 2010 survey, overall use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco decreased.

Still, Iowa is among the top ten states for high binge drinking rates. Of Iowans ages 12 and above, 27 percent reported an episode of binge drinking within the last month. According to the survey, 6 percent of 6th graders reported drinking alcohol at least once; that percentage jumped to 18 percent by 8th grade and 48 percent by 11th grade. IDPH is partnering with 23 counties to reduce underage and alcohol abuse through compliance checks with alcohol retailers, media campaigns, and efforts to change the way young people and adults think about alcohol and how it affects their lives.

#### **New Board members welcomed**

IDPH's Professional Licensure Boards are welcoming 24 new Governor-appointed board members and 17 re-appointments. These individuals play an important role in the licensing of 19 health-related boards regulating 39 professions. The mission of the professional boards is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by licensing qualified individuals and enforcing Iowa's statutes and administrative rules fairly and consistently.

While the list is lengthy, I do want to recognize these new and re-appointed board members for their service. Board of Athletic Training: Shaun McCarthy, Christopher Wiedmann; Board of Barbering: Charles Wubbena; Board of Behavioral Science: Jill Struyk, Erik Oostenin, Sarah Thomas; Board of Chiropractic: Jason Wall; Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences: Richard Sheriff; Board of Dietetics: Janet Johnson; Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers: Jaime Secory, Jerry Smith; Board of Massage <u>Therapy</u>: Christina Michael, Rhonda Reif; <u>Board of Mortuary Science</u>: Kimberly Doehrmann, Barbara Teahen; Board of Nursing Home Administrators: Patricia Hoffman-Simanek, Michael Jenison, Karol Dammann, Lanny Ward; Board of Optometry: Thomas A Hayden, Tamie S Stahl; Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy: Erin Hytrek, Denise Behrends, Todd Bradley; Board of Physician Assistants: Dr. Joseph, Molnar, Susan Koehler, Keith Guess, Melissa Gentry; Board of Podiatry: Dr. Gregory Lantz, Dr. Denise Mandi, Dr. Tara Decker-Brock; Board of Psychology: Dr. Melinda Green, Joan Skogstrom; Board of Respiratory Care: Lawrence "Gene" Lilla; Board of Sign Language Interpreters & Transliterators: Susan Tyrell, Bill Ainsley; Board of Social Work: Valerie Huntley, Amy Courneya, Jody Weigel; Board of Speech Pathology & Audiology: Diana Hanson, Dr. Kent Weaver.

Thank you also to those ending terms for their service to the boards: Troy Kleese, Kenneth Fann, Bradley Brown, Stanley Haugland, Gregory Moore, Mary Belieu, Thomas Kenefick, Jeannine Bunge, Sharon Tharp, Charles Follett, Ted Smith, Theresa Hegmann, Dr. Eric Barp, Mary Johnson, Kerry George, Judy Gouldsmith, David Theobald, Beth Harms, Katinka Keith, Krista Lindholm, Coral Jud, Jason Aird.

### **Quarterly Regional Public Health Meetings underway**

The statewide Spring Quarterly Regional Public Health Meetings are underway for Local Public Health Administrators and Authorized Agencies of the Local Public Health Services Contract. The meetings are facilitated by the <u>Regional Community Health Consultants</u> and provide an opportunity for IDPH to touch base with our local partners to share information, and learn of local successes and challenges related to health care delivery.

#### **PRAMS**

If you work with pregnant women or new mothers, please be sure to encourage them to participate in the <u>Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System</u> (PRAMS) if they receive a questionnaire. Every mom has a unique story to share about her pregnancy and her experiences could help other moms and babies have healthy pregnancies and births.

The survey asks women about their attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. <u>Survey topics</u> include insurance coverage, contraception, prenatal care, breastfeeding, household income, social support and services, and infant health care. Information collected from this survey will help identify those at highest risk for health problems and enable IDPH to target programs accordingly; data shared with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will allow maternal and child health indicators to be monitored. Currently, 40 states and New York City participate in the CDC-funded PRAMS survey. Contact PRAMS project coordinator <u>Sarah Mauch</u> if you would like more information.

### **Congrats and kudos**

Congratulations to Michele Tilotta of the <u>IDPH Bureau of Substance Abuse</u>, who was recognized this month at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Iowa's Great Nurses. Michele was named one of the <u>100 Great Iowa Nurses for 2013</u>. Kudos to all the nurses honored this year for your courage, competence and commitment.

Congratulations to Black Hawk County Public Health Department Officer Tina Ahlberg, who received the Distinguished Service Award from the <u>lowa Environmental Health</u> Association at the lowa Governor's Public Health Conference.

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!